THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Under Section 12 of Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, the primary duty of the Corporation is to organize and conduct public broadcasting services to inform, educate and entertain the public and to ensure a balanced development of broadcasting on radio and television. Therefore, Prasar Bharati is not being run on commercial basis and hence are not maintaining profit and loss account. However, the deficit between income and expenditure of Prasar Bharati is being met by the Government since accounts of Prasar Bharati were de-linked from Government. A total of Rs. 3368.65 crores has been provided by the Government to the Corporation from 1st April 2000 to March 2003.

Exemption of films from entertainment tax etc .

581. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any guidelines for exemption of films from entertainment tax/duty to the State Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that various State Government have exempted films from entertainment tax/duty despite failure to fulfil prescribed conditions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Entertainment Tax is levied by State Governments. However, on occasion, the Central Government has recommended to the State Governments that Indian Panorama films, international and national awarding films and children's films etc. may be exempted from Entertainment Tax.

(c) and (d) No data is maintained by the Central Government in this regard.

Exclusive news channel by Doordarshan

†582. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN': SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that a news channel has been introduced on Dordarshan recently like other private channels;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any assessment before launching this channel that Dordsarshan would not suffer any financial loss as a result of introducing this channel;

(c) if so, the details of the assessment and the additional amount required by Doordarshan each year as a result of launching this channel; and

(d) the income likely to be generated by this channel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that a 24 hours News Channel has been commissioined w.e.f. 3rd November 2003, by replacing DD-II (Metro Channel). Prasar Bharati has informed that for the years 2004-05.and for 2005-06, the revenue generation of the Doordarshan News Channel is targeted at 50% and 100% respectively of the cost of the scheme estimated at Rs. 54.00 crores. Prasar Bharati has further informed that during the current financial year 2003-04, Rs. 20.00 croures has been sanctioined and for the financial year 2004-05, a provision of Rs. 54.00 crores has been proposed.

Roll out of CAS

583. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Consumer Electonics and TV Manufacturers Assoication has urged Government to ensure a quick roll out of Conditional Access System as it would enable the viewers to pay less for their monthly cable bill;

(b) if so, whether almost all the States have opposed this move;

(c) whether any modification in the Cable TV Act is being considered;

(d) whether Government are considering to set up a Broadcasting Regulatory Authority as the Group of Ministers on Telecommunications has decided to put on hold the Convergence Bill; and